



Thin Mat Floating Marsh Enhancement Demonstration (TE-36)

Project Status

Approved Date: 1998 **Cost:** \$542,570
Project Area: N/A **Status:** Completed
Net Benefit After 20 Years: N/A May 2001
Project Type: Demonstration: Marsh Enhancement

Location

The project is located in the upper Bayou Penchant Basin in northwestern Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana.

Problems

The Penchant Basin floating marshes are among the most critically degraded wetlands in Louisiana in recent years. There is no direct evidence explaining why areas with historically thick-mat maidencane (*Panicum hemitomon*) floating marsh have converted to more fragile, spike rush (*Elocharis parvula*) dominated, thin mat floating marsh. Due to lack of sufficient studies about the effects of water and sediment moving through the floating marshes, there is no definitive understanding of how to go about preserving and restoring them.

Restoration Strategy

This demonstration project (in conjunction with the existing CWPPRA project, Penchant Basin Natural Resources Plan, Increment 1 [TE-34a]) evaluates specific techniques for enhancing existing thin-mat floating marsh, or flotant. Additionally, the effects of sediment availability and water movement on thin-mat will also be studied.

The goal of this project is to induce the development of thick-mat, continuously floating marsh from a thin-mat flotant at four sites using various combinations of treatments that include fertilization, herbivory reduction, and the transplanting of healthy, thick-mat marsh plugs into the thin-mat flotant.

Project implementation is expected to increase knowledge about floating marshes and help identify management techniques for potential large-scale applications.



Plugs are harvested from healthy, thick-mat maidencane floating marsh for transplanting into thin-mat floating marsh.

Progress to Date

Construction is complete. Monitoring stations and boardwalks have been constructed, and monitoring activities are ongoing. Results are too preliminary to report at this time. This project is on Priority Project List 7.

For more project information, please contact:



Federal Sponsor:
 Natural Resources Conservation Service
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 (318) 473-7816



Local Sponsor:
 Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
 Baton Rouge, LA
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○ Project Monitoring Sites



Map Produced By:
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey
National Wetlands Research Center
Coastal Restoration Field Station

Background Imagery:
Thematic Mapper Satellite Imagery 2000

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